

REMARKS

I. Status of th Priority Document

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to investigate the status of Applicants' certified copy of their priority document. See Reply to Office Action filed January 7, 2004, at 8. Since no receipt of Applicants' priority document has been acknowledged, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to ask the International Bureau to again forward a certified copy of the priority document to the PTO, if necessary, so that Applicants can receive the benefits of priority for this application.

II. Status of the Official Filing Receipt

Applicants have not received an Official Filing Receipt for this application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide Applicants with a copy of the Official Filing Receipt with the next official action.

III. Status of the Claims and Amendments

Claims 1-13 are pending, with claim 1 being independent. Claims 8 and 9 are amended herein, without prejudice to pursue canceled subject matter in a continuing application, and without disclaimer of any subject matter.

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to recite "and at least one auxiliary substance." Support for this amendment can be found, among other places, in the specification at page 4, lines 11-13.

IV. Accompanying Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents submitted with the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, and return the initialed PTO-1449 form to Applicants to indicate the Examiner's consideration. The undersigned recently learned of one listed document, WO 95 33721, which was cited by the Hungarian Patent Office as an "A" reference in a related application. The remaining non-U.S. documents have already been submitted to the Office, accompanying the PCT application from the International Bureau since they were cited on the International Search Report in the international stage of this application. See Notification of Acceptance of Application under 35 U.S.C. 371 and 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495, dated September 14, 2001. The U.S. patent listed on the PTO-1449 form is a counterpart to the French-language document, submitted for the Examiner's convenience.

V. Possible Allowance

On January 30, 2004, the Examiner contacted the undersigned to discuss proposed amendments to claims 8 and 9 and the possible allowance of all pending claims. Applicants have amended claims 8 and 9 in accordance with the Examiner's request. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned again at 202.408.4331 if any further obstacles to allowance appear.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

No extension of time should be necessary to enter this Amendment, since the Reply to Office Action filed on January 7, 2004 was complete and timely filed. See M.P.E.P. § 710.02(e). Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 3, 2004

By: 
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